

REMARKS

The remainder of this Amendment is set forth under appropriate subheadings for the convenience of the Examiner.

Status of the Drawings

In Office Action Summary, item (10) regarding the matter of the acceptance of drawings was marked by the Examiner, but without any specification as to whether or not the drawings were accepted or objected to. Applicants respectfully request clarification of this matter.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 19-27 are allowed. Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10-17 are objected to, and Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 18 are rejected.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the claimed slurry comprises “a vitreous bonding material.” Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, on page 6, line 21. Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10 have been rewritten as independent claims.

Objection to Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10-17

Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11-17 are dependent from currently-amended, independent Claim 10. Therefore, Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10, as amended, and Claims 11-17 are now in allowable form. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,026 to Feder, *et al.* (hereinafter “Feder, *et al.*.”) In particular, the Examiner stated that Feder, *et al.* disclose aqueous coating dispersions comprising crosslinkable silicone polymers, acrylic polymers, crosslinking agents, dispersants and several non-siliceous fillers, including alumina.

As amended, independent Claim 1 is directed to a slurry that includes a vitreous bonding material as well as a liquid, abrasive grains, an ionically cross-linkable polymer and at least one cross-linking agent. As discussed in the specification on page 6, lines 21-28, the vitreous bonding material fixes the abrasive grains in the form of a dispersed and homogeneous composite glassy structure when the slurry is used for making an abrasive tool.

Feder, *et al.* disclose aqueous silicone dispersions crosslinkable into elastomeric state on removal of water therefrom. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Feder, *et al.* of a slurry that includes a vitreous bonding material. In fact, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Feder, *et al.* of any type of bonding material. Therefore, the subject matter of currently-amended Claim 1, and Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 18, dependent from Claim 1, is novel in view of Feder, *et al.*

In addition, the teachings of Feder, *et al.* are limited to applications of the aqueous dispersions that require elastomeric properties of the aqueous dispersions to form coatings on a substrate (see, for example, Column 10, line 46 through Column 11, line 19 and the claims of Feder, *et al.*). As such, there is no reason for one skilled in the art to modify the aqueous dispersions of Feder, *et al.* to include a vitreous bonding material that can hold and fix abrasive grains in a glassy structure suitable for removing material from metal, ceramic materials, composites and other workpieces. Therefore, the subject matter of currently-amended Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 18 is also non-obvious in view of Feder, *et al.*

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10 have been rewritten as independent claims. Thus, these claims and Claims 11-17, dependent from independent Claim 10, are now in allowable form. As discussed above, the subject matter of currently-amended Claim 1 and Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 18, dependent from currently-amended, independent Claim 1, is novel and non-obvious in view of Feder, *et al.* Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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